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DIDSBUY REVIEW

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

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Volume 28 Issue 50



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Used book sale needs a new home

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

The Friends of the Library are looking for a new home for the used book sale that raises money for the Didsbury Municipal Library.

"If we have to pay rent, it defeats the whole thing."

DON MacMILLIAN
Friends of the Library

The volunteers held the final sale, a pre-Christmas event, at Didsbury Mini-Storage on Nov. 27 and 28. Now the used book inventory is in storage until new premises are found, said Don MacMillan of the Friends on Dec. 8.

MacMillan said the Friends are grateful that the Penner family has hosted the Friends rent-free at the mini-storage and understand that the space they used is now rented to a new occupant.

The Friends are looking for new book sale space at or near street level; volunteers and customers can manage a few stairs, he said.

"If we have to pay rent, it defeats the whole thing," MacMillan said.

Library manager Inez Kosinski said the Friends have given the library about \$15,000 this year so far, including \$5,000 from the used book sales held in 2015.

The Friends raise money from the used book sales and occasional garage sales, and a casino every third year, she said.

Kosinski uses funding from the Friends to buy most of the new books that she adds to the collection each year, and furniture such as shelving.

"The Friends want to contribute to permanent facilities, things that will come with us when we move," she said.

Canadian country singer Kelly Prescott performs during the CP Holiday Train stop in Didsbury at sunset on Dec. 9. She was joined by singer-songwriter Devin Cuddy. The popular annual event drew a huge crowd in spite of wintry weather.

Town sets interim 2016 budget

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

Didsbury will use the town's 2015 operating budget as the interim operating budget for 2016 until council passes the 2016 operating and capital budgets, council decided at its Dec. 8 regular meeting.

The town's administration is asking for a 2016 operating budget of \$11,098,810 and a capital budget of \$1,388,400, according to a report to council Dec. 8 from chief financial officer Nita Bartholow.

The total operating and capital budget would be \$12,123,995.

"At this point in time council can do a zero increase in residential and non-residential tax rates for 2016," the report said.

"The tax rate will be determined after the final property assessment is received."

When the tax rates are approved, property owners will know what they will be paying in property taxes. The properties at greatest risk for a hike are those with an increase in the assessed value.

Aside from the determination of the

tax rate, there are just a handful of unresolved budget issues.

The most sensitive is a request from the Didsbury Municipal Library for a 16 per cent revenue increase in its municipal allocation, driven by the library board's desire to extend benefits including pension to all its employees.

Its other major cost increase would be an increase in hours of operation to allow for Monday openings.

Council cut the 16 per cent increase in half and asked the library to budget for a \$194,400 allocation, determining how it wants to use the eight per cent increase.

The Christmas Helpers also conduct a Christmas Angels gift program that involves picking up an angel denoting a child's age from Ulla-La Boutique, buying an age-appropriate gift and taking it to the post office.

Those gifts will be wrapped at an evening bee Dec. 18 at the Zion church.

The hampers and gifts will be delivered Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. and the Mountaineer Colts hockey players will join the volunteers to help with that task.

Hamper sponsors urgently needed

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

The organizer of the Christmas Helpers hamper program says the downturn in the economy has created higher need and she desperately needs more hamper sponsors.

The planners had targeted for 130 hampers and are within reach of that number, but the need has grown beyond their initial expectations.

Linda Sirr said Dec. 11 that she expects a sharp increase of as much as 25 per

cent over last year of needy families and single people, and well above the target 130 hampers of non-perishable food items that the Christmas Helpers estimated just two weeks ago that they would need.

She also needs more cash that is used to top up the hampers with fresh vegetables and fruit.

She asks prospective sponsors and donors to call her at 403-335-2378 or the Zion church office at 403-335-3629.

There are three categories of hampers — \$125, \$200 and \$300 depending on the

size of the recipient family.

The Christmas Helpers also conduct a Christmas Angels gift program that involves picking up an angel denoting a child's age from Ulla-La Boutique, buying an age-appropriate gift and taking it to the post office.

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It's official: Northcott named CAO

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

Didsbury's town council formally named Harold Northcott its chief administrative officer at its Dec. 8 meeting and established his job description in a bylaw.

Northcott was briefly the acting chief administrative officer between his hiring Dec. 1 as acting chief administrative officer and the termination with cause of the previous chief administrative officer, Roy Brown.

Northcott has become the administrative head of the municipality and will ensure that all the policies and programs of the municipality are implemented. He will advise and inform council on all the operations and affairs of the town.

He will also advise council of its legislative responsibilities under the Municipal Government Act.

Northcott will advise council of the most effective use of corporate assets and resources, the corporate planning process of the municipal corporation, and any changes to organizational structure required to support the changing needs of council and the community.

He will coordinate all civic operations and projects, the use of specialized and contracted services and the decision-making processes of the municipal corporation.

He also will coordinate the resources that support the town's boards and committees and its economic development and tourism functions.

He will direct the senior management staff and the staff reporting to the CAO. He is responsible for the town's hiring, promotion, compensation, development, motivation, discipline and firing processes.

Northcott will ensure that all civic departments work within the parameters and budgets set by council, that all management functions are carried out with generally accepted management and supervisory practices and that all staff are working at maximum effectiveness and their performance is reviewed annually.

The CAO also ensures that council gets the best available advice and the major alternatives on actions recommended, and the issues, goals and objectives identified by council receive high priority by the town's staff and departments.

It is Northcott's responsibility that the town's work is delegated effectively and that the committees that support council's functions are effective.

Northcott also ensures that the minutes of council meetings are recorded according to Municipal Government Act standards, and that the town's money is properly collected, recorded, deposited and invested.

He sees to it that financial records are kept, and that council gets regular reports on spending.

He is responsible for maintaining proper assessments, assessment rolls and tax rolls and that public auctions to recover unpaid taxes are carried out in the manner required by the Municipal Government Act.



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

5-0 Club floor curlers (from left) Verna Broad, Bob Lailey, Wayne Moench, Nettie and Dave Neustater play their weekly game at the lawn bowling clubhouse Dec. 10. The club faces eviction to make way for Neighborhood Place.

Five - 0 asks for a reprieve

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

A seniors' recreational program facing eviction from the town-owned lawn bowling clubhouse at 22nd Avenue and 16th Street to make way for Neighborhood Place has asked for a reprieve.

A committee of councillors will meet with the Five-0 Club to hear its case to continue using the space for floor curling and shuffleboard, council decided at its regular meeting on Dec. 8. A date for the meeting has not been set but it will be before the club's annual meeting in February, a spokesperson for the town said Dec. 11.

On July 26 this year council voted to end the lease with the 5-0 Club for the lawn bowling building on March 1, 2017.

Neighborhood Place, which offers a range of social programs to the community, has been housed in Victoria Square downtown on 19th Avenue and the town has decided to

move it to the clubhouse.

Club leader Bill Jepps led a delegation of 30 members to council Dec. 7. He explained that the 45-foot length of open floor needed for curling and shuffleboard is available in the lawn bowling building but not the 5-0 club house at 15th Avenue and 23rd Street.

Jepps said the recreational program provides healthy exercise for the seniors and a social opportunity to meet and get to know their peers. Some 42 seniors are signed up to floor curling teams and 20 more seniors play shuffleboard. The games take place weekly.

The letter that the town sent the club explains, "Council has been looking for cost efficiencies in (the town's) operations.

"Unfortunately there are a few municipally-owned buildings that are currently being leased by community groups which has forced Town of Didsbury programs into private buildings," says the letter.

"As the town continues

to grow, along with the services that are offered to our residents, a greater need has been placed on municipal building space."

The club also leases its main clubhouse at 15th Avenue and 25th Street from the town. In the letter to the 5-0 Club giving notice of the end of the lease at the lawn bowling building, the town offered to sell it to the club on 15th Avenue.

"That's nice, but we don't have the money to buy a building," said Jepps.

As well as providing a social and recreational opportunity to seniors, the floor curling and shuffleboard program is an alternative to recreation for seniors in Olds and Carstairs.

People who go to those other towns for bowling, pickleball and other seniors' activities will also shop and dine there, spending money that would otherwise be spent in Didsbury. 5-0 Club members said Dec. 10 at a 5-0 Club floor curling morning.

"It's a day out for us," said a member who asked not to be named because they feared retaliation.

"There is an economic aspect to this decision that council should be aware of," the member said.

At the conclusion of Jepps' presentation, Didsbury's new CAO Harold Northcott said, "We are not here to say 'no.' Sometimes we have to."

"But we are here to work with you to make this community stronger and better," he said.

"Having this committee (of council) work with you will allow us to find common ground," said Northcott.

Farm and ranch families spoke.

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Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

Heavy winter fog dampened the farm protest against Bill 6 on Dec. 12. Tractor, horse trailer and pickups are the first of 35 farm equipment vehicles to brave the weather at the rendezvous on the corner of highways 27 and 2.

Fog disrupts farm protest cavalcade

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

A heavy winter fog and safety concerns about a Highway 2 cavalcade of farm equipment disrupted a farmers protest Dec. 12.

Rally organizers planned to travel from Olds to Carstairs on Highway 2, but decided instead to drive on the service road running 100 metres west of the highway. They confirmed their decision with the RCMP and Alberta

Highway personnel who had arranged to escort them.

A large contingent of 350 farm vehicles expected from Rocky Mountain House was unable to get to Olds because of the foul weather. The fog also grounded farmers closer to the marshalling point on the Netook side road at the intersection of highways 2 and 27. With Bill 6 passed by the legislature, the focus now shifts to the inadequacies of workers' compensation and the yet-to-be released Occupational Health and

Safety (OHS) regulations for farming operations.

"I have WBC (Workers' Compensation Board) insurance for my employees," said protest organizer Jim Thain. "But WBC is a broken system."

WCB is embroiled in multiple lawsuits from disaffected injured workers who have not received satisfaction, Thain said.

"Why would farmers want WBC coverage when it is in such bad shape?"

And farmers polled by the Review

Dec. 12 and 13 after Bill 6 passed into law said they don't know what do to comply with the law.

"Has the government even written the OHS rules for farms," asked one Didsbury-area farmer, who did not wish to be named.

"I think Progressive Conservative leader Ric McIver nailed it when he said the people of Alberta wanted change (when they elected the NDP government) but they got the kind of change they did not expect," said Thain.



Jim Bob Thain directs farm vehicles to the protest cavalcade rendezvous for the Bill 6 and NDP farm policy protest on Dec. 12. The farmers opted to stay off Highway 2 for safety reasons due to the heavy winter fog.

Bill 6 could secretly include families, neighbours: MLA

BY DOUG COLLIE
MVP Staff

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills MLA Nathan Cooper fears the provincial government may change Bill 6 to include families and neighbours again, now that the bill has been passed in the legislature.

The controversial bill, which requires agricultural workers to be governed by Occupational Health and Safety rules and receive Workers' Compensation Board coverage, was passed by the NDP provincial government this past Thursday, despite strong opposition from agricultural sector.

The controversial bill, which requires agricultural workers to be governed by Occupational Health and Safety rules and receive Workers' Compensation Board coverage, was passed by the NDP provincial government this past Thursday, despite strong opposition from agricultural sector.

Opposition was so fierce that the province changed the proposed legislation a few weeks ago exempting families and neighbours from requirements under the act.

Cooper says there are loopholes that he fears could allow families and neighbours to fall under the law's provisions again.

"One of the other big concerns for us and something that we'll be watching is, once the regulations are in place, there's nothing that pre-

vents them from being changed by cabinet without notification of the legislature or anything like that," Cooper said during an interview with the Albertan.

"In the amendment, off the top of my head, there were 10 sections. Eight of the 10 sections are regulations that can be changed at any time by any future government or not."

"They've left themselves the opportunity to make the changes behind closed doors."

That could not be confirmed at press time.

Cooper, a member of the opposition Wildrose Party, says he and his party are suspicious about the government's true intentions because he says the province changed its story regarding the bill a few times.

He says during an information session in Grande Prairie at the beginning of debate on Bill 6, the provincial government and the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) said farm

tested information session on Bill 6 this past Wednesday at the Cow Palace in Olds.

"The information that they shared at that session compared to the session in Olds is like talking about a totally different bill," Cooper says.

"It changed at least three or four times throughout the discussion. The first handout that they gave actually said that paid or unpaid workers – so basically your neighbour – would have to be covered by WCB."

"Now they've gone back and said, 'oh this was just misinformation, we didn't mean any of that stuff. What we actually meant to do was this.'

"In the end, that's what started a lot of the mistrust because they said one thing and did another. And then additionally, in the end what

we wound up with was a piece of legislation that allows them to change all those regulations behind closed doors in cabinet anyway."

"So who knows whether or not that's what they actually meant or not?"

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Colts beat Airdrie for top spot



BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

The Mountainview Colts slipped back into first place Dec. 8 in the Heritage Junior B northern division with a 4-1 win over the Blackfalds Wranglers and remained there by defeating arch rivals, the Airdrie Thunder 8-5 on Dec. 12.

Playing in Blackfalds, the Colts opened the scoring in the first frame, scored twice in the second period and once in the third. Blackfalds got its only goal in the second period.

On the strength of that victory, the Colts went into the weekend games with 36 points on 18 victories and four defeats, compared to the Thunder, who had 17 wins, a tie and six losses for a total of 35 points.

Mountainview stumbled in a 3-2 loss to the Strathmore Wheatland Kings on Dec. 11.

The first period ended in a scoreless tie.

Although the Colts opened the scoring in the second period thanks to a goal from Clinton Armitage assisted by Jack Vergousen and Austin Petersen, the Kings tied the game four minutes later on a goal by Lucas Jones.

The Kings edged ahead in the third period when Jayden Smith connected but the Colts tied it up when Jacon Vander Zaag took a pass from Cole Sutherland and beat Strathmore goalie Brady Hoover.

With just five minutes remaining in the game, the Kings went ahead to stay on Jaden Smith's second goal of the game.

Continued to page 5



▲ Mountainview Colts captain Cole Sutherland tests the Strathmore Wheatland Kings defense mounted by (left) Hayden Vanderploeg and Colton Piercy (16). The Kings defeated the Colts 3-2 on Dec. 11.

Strathmore Wheatland Kings goalie Brady Hoover (1) covers the Mountain View Colts shot while Colts winger Tyson Schmidt waits in the crease for a rebound. The Kings defeated the Colts 3-2 in the Dec. 11 game.



Mountainview Colts Reed Engman (28) and Mitch Visser (20) battle for position in front of Airdrie Thunder goalie Kade Taplin while Tyler Devots (24) and Marshall Burr (11) defend the net. The Colts trampled the Thunder 8-5 on Dec. 12.

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Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

Mountainview Colts (left) Tyson Schmit (11) and Austin Peterson (16) celebrate Quinton Thorburn's (right) goal, the third of eight scored by the Colts as they routed the Airdrie Thunder Dec. 12 by a score of 8-5.

Continued from page 4

The lackadaisical play of the Colts against the Kings was forgotten the next night when the Airdrie Thunder came to the Didsbury Memorial Complex to challenge the Colts for first place.

The Colts turned up to play right from the start of the first period. Stung by a quick reality check on a goal from Dane Gallant of the Thunder on a powerplay six minutes into the game, the Colts settled down.

They finished the first period ahead of the Thunder on goals by Reed Engman and Ryan Klinck, and stayed ahead for the remainder of the game. They solidified their lead to 3-1 early in the second frame when Quinton Thorburn scored on playmaking by Trey Wallace and Nicholas Milch.

Clinton Armitage scored the Colt's fourth goal and, added to his four assists, had a season high of five points. Reed Engman scored the Colt's fifth goal and, added to his first period tally, had a two-goal game.

Austin Pedersen scored before the second period ended, and the Colts led by 6-3 as the game went into the final period.

Jacob Vander Zaag and Tyson Schmid finished out the goal scoring for the Colts in the third period and goalie Thomas Della Siega notched his tenth win of the season – the same number of wins he had in 2014-15. Della Siega is having a brilliant career year.

The Colts now have 38 points having won 19 out of 24 games; the Thunder have 37 points on 18 wins and one regulation-time tie.



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Noel West/MVP Staff

Danielle Lappage of Olds has qualified to join the Canadian Olympic women's wrestling team in the 63-kilogram class, for the Rio De Janeiro summer games in 2016 after winning all her bouts at the Canadian Wrestling Team Trials Dec. 4-5. The 25-year-old Lappage trains with the Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club. Here she throws Braxton Stone in a trial match.

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Commentary

The future starts with trust

Town council is changing gears.

The transmission grinds but there is a new openness to the problems that citizens are bringing to council.

Three meetings that would not have taken place six months ago speak to the change.

The mayor, deputy mayor and senior administration will meet this week with the general contractor of the untendered fire hall construction project.

This meeting will take place because three Didsbury contractors – as employers and taxpayers in the town – brought their concerns about decisions around its construction to council.

The second meeting will be a session with property owners and operators who use vacant non-residential lots for their businesses.

They have been given property tax concessions for several years. These concessions treat "undeveloped" land that has been fenced, paved or gravelled so that commercial vehicles, or those owned by customers of an auto repair garage, can be parked off the street.

Those tax concessions are being withdrawn, and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the whys and wherefores of the decision with the owners and operators who are asking council not to take away their tax break.

The third meeting is with the 5-0 Club to discuss its pending eviction from the town-owned lawn bowling club building to make way for Neighborhood Place, which has been housed in Victoria Square in a leased office.

There are many sides to each of the above issues and council is in the unenviable position of having to decide one way or the other. It cannot reach a decision that makes everyone happy.

It is early days in the new relationship between council and Didsbury citizens.

However, it is clear to this reporter that when one feels back all the facts, details and positions of each meeting and each issue, the heart of the matter is trust.

Forgive the finger wagging from a newcomer who is struggling every day to earn trust for this newspaper, but some things need to be said.

Trust is the starting point for the future of Didsbury.

Trust is earned, not taken for granted.

To build a relationship, trust must be accompanied by honesty and respect.

For the past 10 years, council and town administration and staff have lost the trust of the people – one decision at a time, one unresponsive snub, one arrogant response, one act of bullying, one moment of self-interest, one by one by one.

Poet Carl Sandburg wrote, "The past is a bucket of ashes."

So let's not talk about the past.

It is up to council, the elected boss of civic policy and administration, to lead in the regaining of trust.

Administration has the public servants' responsibility "to speak truth to power."

To do that, it must know the truth and acknowledge where the power lies.

Council and administration can learn to trust and respect each other.

Council and administration can learn to trust and respect taxpayers.

Citizens can learn to trust and respect their neighbours at town hall.

Opinion



Letters

Silos, bunkers and dialogue

In addition to having a successful silo business (Didsbury Review, Dec. 1), the bunker business in Didsbury is not feeling any ill effects of the economic downturn. Admittedly with bombs bursting overhead (the fire hall, matters relating to former CAO Brown, the continued sagas of Shantz Crossing, the Isabella Homes palliative care facility, and the proposed civic centre) plus friendly fire sniping in letters to the editor, and at coffee-time conversations, bunkers are a likely a good place to lay low.

Unfortunately huddling in a bunker, like being a silo fixture, does little to assist in progressively moving Didsbury forward. It's time to call for a ceasefire, rise out of the bunkers, fix the shell and bullet hole damage to the silos, and work together so everyone experiences a sense of belonging to the community.

Bob Clark, former MLA for this area, speaks of "community" including the word "unity". This in turn, includes "(yo)u" and "I".

It takes a certain confidence and leadership to transcend from individual points of reference to the collective "we". Research has shown successful small communities are leaderful communities. It is not having an individual, or a specific set of leader-

ship skills, that differentiate a leaderful community from others. The defining feature is the large number of connected leaders of all ages in the community. Inclusion of the innocence of youth, plus those more experienced and travelled in life, is important.

Connected leaders are inclusionary, listeners, facilitators of respectful and considerate differing points of view. They are connectors, naturally skilled at honouring participation of others and reinforcing the ideal that everyone's efforts make a difference.

I can't put it any better than Didsbury Review editor Frank Dabbs when he spoke of "dialogue, an endless stream of questions, answers and revisions." We need multi-dimensional dialogue where individuals and identifiable groups (schools, local businesses, service organizations, arts societies, various levels of elected and administrative government, etc.) look beyond their special interests and work together to create a sense of belonging that everyone in their own way feels comfortable with, and the promise of a bright future for Didsbury.

K.R. (Kevin) Bentley
Didsbury

Commentary

Thanks for the buzz kill, government

BY PAIGE MACPHERSON

Talk about a quick hangover. As predicted, a craft brewery has now officially pulled out of Alberta after our government made it more expensive for them to sell their craft brew in the province.

Calling the Alberta government's massive tax hike on out-of-province small beers "a major step

back for the craft beer industry," Ontario-based Muskoka Brewery announced it will "wind down operations" in Alberta by the end of 2015.

The Alberta government's October budget slipped in the hike in a policy many sold as being good for the craft beer industry. Clearly that wasn't the truth.

Continued to page 7

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News and photos: If you have a news item or a photo opportunity you feel may be of interest to readers, please call 335-3301.

Display and classified advertising: Please call 335-3301 and we will be happy to help you place your advertisement. Classified advertising deadline: Friday 12 noon. Display advertising copy deadline: Thursday 5 pm.

Do you have a concern or complaint about a newspaper article or ad?

This newspaper is a sponsoring member of the Alberta Press Council. As a non-judicial, non-governmental review board made up of public and press members, the council considers complaints filed within nine months of publication from the public about the conduct and performance of its member newspapers. If, after bringing your concerns to the attention of the paper, you are not satisfied, you may contact the Alberta Press Council in writing:

Alberta Press Council
Box 21067, Edmonton, Alberta T6R 2V4
Phone: 1-403-526-8755
Email: apress@telus.net

Continued from page 6

Under the new markup scheme, small brewers outside of the 'New West Partnership' – an agreement between Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan – faced extreme hikes, as they were now excluded from the small brewers rate. For Muskoka Brewery, the tax rate shifted from 51 cents per litre up to \$1.25 per litre, a 145 per cent increase. That's 24 cents per bottle, a price increase they said makes it "now unsustainable to sell our beer in these provinces."

The government's new policy doesn't hit the large beer producers nearly as hard. Budweiser and Labatt Blue, for example, faced tax hikes of two cents per bottle.

The majority of the founding mem-

bers of the Alberta Small Brewers Association have been lobbying the government for increased fees on their out-of-province competitors for years. In 2013, 12 of 16 of the association's members asked the then-PC provincial government to impose higher taxes on out-of-province small- and medium-sized brewers.

Their argument was that other provinces tax Alberta beers at higher rates than the local brewers, so we should do the same thing here. It's the policy equivalent of "but he started it!"

Lowering the local tax rate would have been a perfectly fine way to give local breweries an advantage. It would not have raised prices for Albertans or other small brewers, nor would it have limited the selection of craft beers

Albertans can enjoy.

The NDP's October budget did give local producers a boost by changing the graduated markup structure. Now tax hikes won't be retroactively applied if a brewery produces more than a certain amount of beer.

But those lobbying the government wanted to take it further – and the NDP has indulged them. They wanted economic protectionism – a way to unfairly price your competition out of the market.

And now, as expected, it's worked. Muskoka Brewery has pulled out of the province. Albertans were drinking Muskoka, enjoying the option of purchasing those craft beers.

Limiting selection doesn't only impact consumers – Alberta's liquor

retailing small businesses will suffer the loss of those craft beers as well.

In Alberta we value the choice, selection and price advantages that come from privatized liquor sales. This policy reduces those advantages, and that's a shame for Albertans, especially those who enjoy tasting neat craft beers and supporting small breweries across Canada and abroad.

Lowering beer taxes and markups across the board would have been the best way to support small brewers. Instead, the NDP craft brew tax hike is a major hiccup in our access to beers in the province. Thanks for the buzz kill, government.

Paige MacPherson is the Alberta director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

TOWN OF DIDS BURY



Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.3391
 Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.8343
 Information Line 403.335.2030
 After Hours (Toll Free) 866.527.5866
 Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
 Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369
www.didsbury.ca

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday December 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm
 MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday January 13, 2016 at 4:30 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

iTunes Store



Download our FREE

Town of Didsbury app for
iPhone and Android users now

Google Play



Access local notices, events and maps on your smartphone,
and be kept notified in the event of an emergency
through our real-time Emergency Alert System.

Property Taxes - Year-end Penalty

All unpaid Property Taxes as of December 31, 2015
are subject to the year-end penalty of 18%

Please pay your outstanding taxes
by December 31 to avoid penalty.



Attention Residents:

Since 2005, the Town of Didsbury and Miki Town, Japan have been working together for an educational/cultural exchange program with students from both towns. Once again we are looking for families to participate in the Maple Leaf Exchange Program by opening up their homes to students from Miki Town from March 17 to 22, 2016 inclusive (5 nights). During this time, Miki Town students will stay with local families and participate in events and activities planned by the exchange program during their stay in Didsbury. A schedule of events and activities can be provided to any family interested in participating.

If you are interested in participating, or just need further information, please contact the Town of Didsbury office at 403.335.3391 or visit our website at www.didsbury.ca.

ROLLOUT CART PICK-UP SCHEDULE

December

Black Bin 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31

Green Bin pick-up ceases until the spring

Please visit www.didsbury.ca/town/recycling to view the zone map to determine what day your bin will be picked up.

- Recycling Blue Bins will be picked up every week on your collection day.

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The Town of Didsbury wishes to thank
AG Foods for their continued support
during the CP Holiday Train



Thank You!!!



Coffee with Council

December 17, 2015

7:00 pm

Macy's Family Restaurant
1705 - 20 Avenue

An opportunity to meet
informally with Council and
ask questions or present great
new ideas for Council to consider.



If you are unable to join us for this
event, please stay tuned for a similar event.



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

The Didsbury High School bands presented The Glory of Christmas, Dec. 13 featuring the 100-piece Symphonic Winds under the direction of Kirk Wassmer. The annual Christmas concert drew an audience of more than 500 and included a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

Glory of Christmas celebrated the season

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

More than 500 of music teacher Kirk Wassmer's friends and students gathered at Didsbury High School on Dec. 13 to wish him happy birthday.

Well, it was more than that.

The Glory of Christmas was a joy-

ous musical afternoon to celebrate the season, performed by the Didsbury High School's concert bands and jazz ensembles to an audience of students, parents, siblings, teachers, music aficionados and lovers of this season of light and music.

The audience ranged in age from three-week-old baby Henry to elderly

grandparents old enough not to be asked their age, out of courtesy.

The 100-member Symphonic Winds concert band presented Wassmer, the school's music director, with an oversized birthday card and invited the audience crowded into the high school gymnasium to sign the Happy Birthday song.

However this was the least of the traditions celebrated.

The principal, Garth Dagg, dressed in his Sunday-go-to-meeting suit and the tables groaning with baking and treats were reminders of the little white schoolhouse Christmas concerts of Didsbury's rural past.

Continued on page 9

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Didsbury Elks Hall

CHRISTMAS DAY 1-3 p.m.

Call...Donnaly 403-335-8299 or Ursula 403-335-4799 to volunteer.

Unable to get to the hall? Call 403-335-3749 between 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. for a delivery.

Donations gratefully accepted, proceeds go to the Breakfast Program



Trombonists Dylan Ward (left) and Garrett Asker play in one of the jazz ensembles at the Glory of Christmas performance Dec. 13, the Didsbury High School band's annual yuletide concert.

Christmas Deadlines

The December 29
Mountain View Gazette
Sales DEADLINE is
Tuesday, December 22 at noon.
All ads MUST BE APPROVED by 3 pm Dec. 23

The December 29 Innisfail Province,
Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review,
Sundre Round Up and Olds Albertan
Sales DEADLINE is 5 pm on Tuesday, December 22.
All ads MUST BE APPROVED by 3 pm December 23.

The January 5 Mountain View Gazette
Sales DEADLINE is noon Tuesday, December 29.
All ads MUST BE APPROVED by 3 pm Wednesday, December 30

The January 5 Innisfail Province, Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review, Sundre Round Up and Olds Albertan.
Sales DEADLINE is Tuesday, December 29 at 3 pm.
All ads MUST BE APPROVED by 3 pm December 30.

The Olds office will be Closed December 25th and January 1.
Sundre, Carstairs, Didsbury and Innisfail offices will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1



Tessa Runnett played the string bass in the Symphonic Winds concert at the Didsbury High School band's Glory of Christmas performance.

Mike Robertson worries over Bill 6 uproar

BY DOUG COLLIE
MVP Staff

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills Wildrose Party



Who do you know... that is celebrating any of these special events? • Birth of a child • Wedding • Special Anniversary: 25, 40, 50, 60, etc.

A special KEEPSAKE GIFT is available compliments of the following community-minded business and professional people:

Mountain View Publishing / Didsbury Review
Contemporary Graphics
AG Foods
Front Porch Realty
Didsbury Value Drug Mart
Phone Linda Neufeld 403-335-4089



AROUND TOWN FOR DECEMBER 15, 2015

Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre in Olds is open 10:00-5:00 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays. Call: 587-796-1611 or email olds@pregnancycare.ca. NEW service, clothing boutique for maternity clothes and newborn to 2 years of age FREE.

December 16. Didsbury Museum Coffee and Conversation from 1 to 3:30. Joins us for a Christmas celebration with music, memories, and snacks.

December 17. Olds Community Chorus, Winter/Christmas Concert 2015. Guest: Didsbury Guitarist, Jake Peters. Thursday, Dec 17 at 7:30 pm at Olds First Baptist Church. Admission: Adults \$10; Students \$5; children 6 and under are free.

December 19 and 20, OUTDOOR LIVE NATIVITY – Redeemer Lutheran Church 1500 23 St, Didsbury at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments to follow in the church gym. (403) 335-3161. All are welcome!

December 20. St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, Didsbury Christmas Service Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:30 am. Christmas carols and Lessons.

December 24. Cyprian's Anglican Church, Didsbury Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm. Holy Communion with Rev. David Asher. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Christmas together.

Promote your events in this column.

Send info to didsburylibrary@pri.ab.ca or drop off copy at Didsbury Library 2033 19 Ave.

fall for his party, but he doesn't see it that way.

"I can see how politically it could be a windfall and the political strategist in me should be excited about this, but I really am not. I have to live in the province, I have to farm in the province, I have to teach in the province.

My neighbours are there," Robertson said.

"This is not good government and I would hope for good government, more than politics – that they would do right. If they refuse to do that, then OK, let it be us. But if good government can reign, then let it reign."

"That might seem strange, coming from somebody who works to gain the favour of voters for his political movement, but I really think that good government, led by the people of this province, is the core of who and what we are.

"We're supposed to be

strong and free in this province, and I think that Bill 6 is an opportunity to see what happens when we're not," he said.

In addition to being a constituency association president, Robertson is also a Carstairs-area farmer. He also teaches in Three Hills.

Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

Bergthal Mennonite Church

Pastor: Anna - Lisa Salo
Didsbury, Alberta - 5km S of the Didsbury Overpass, 8km E on Bergthal Rd.
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
For more information phone 403-335-4451

Hearing Interpreter
email: bergthal@spqrnet.com
www.bergthalmennonitechurch.com

Knox United Didsbury

1406 - 19th Avenue 403-335-3173
Join us for worship 10 a.m. Sundays.
For information go to www.knox-united.com.
People make the place!

We are happy to welcome Rev. Janice Walls

Venue Church

Welcome Home
10:30 a.m. Sundays
Pastors Corey & Erin Kope
Pastor Richard & Beth Kope
1710 - 14 St., Didsbury 403-335-3551
Email: info@venuechurch.ca
www.venuechurch.ca

West Zion Mennonite Church

westzion.com has a map for directions
Senior Pastor Don Shortt
Sunday Services 10:00 am
ALL WELCOME

St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave, Didsbury
Mass every 2nd Saturday of month at 7:00 pm
For more information please contact
Catholic Women's League:
Maxine Moreau 403-335-5948
Knights of Columbus:
Gary McNeil 403-335-8611
For more information
Odds St. Steven's Office
403-596-3084

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

1500 - 23 St., Didsbury
Rev. Robert Mohns
Church: 403-335-3161 / Rev. 403-335-3656
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 2, 4 & 5 Sunday 10:30 a.m.
For further information visit
www.redeemerdidsbury.com

Mountain View Evangelical

Missionary Church

14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numann
Office: 403-335-4422
Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m.
For information concerning the weekly activities please call the Church Office.

Anglican Church of Canada

St. Cyprian's

2037 - 24th Ave, Didsbury 403-335-4664
Rector - David Asher
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sunday each month

St. Agnes Catholic Church

302 - 11 Avenue South, Carstairs, Alberta
Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Parish Priest:
Fr. Thomas Vadassery
403-940-1100

Zion Evangelical

Missionary Church

880 Secondary Highway 582
Phone: 403-335-3629
Web: www.zem.org

Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor,
Bruce Archer, Associate Pastor
Christine Little, Children's Pastor
Youth Pastor, Spencer Smith
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. &
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Programming for children up to Grade 6

Salvation Studio House

"And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."
Jesus Christ

202-20th Avenue, AB

Church Service Times

Sunday 3-5 pm

Wednesday 7-9 pm - Salvation Theatre
(Christian Movie Night)

Call for more information 403-335-2828

Pastors Richard and Marjorie McCue
www.SalvationStudioHouse.com

Harvest Bible Chapel

Pastor: Jon Anderson
10 am Service
Olds Recreation Center, 5202 52st

Contact: 587-777-3314 or Jonanderson@gmail.com

SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Community Resources

This is a free community event listing service, sponsored by area businesses, provided to non-profit organizations or local community groups. Listing is free to any non-profit organization or community group in the

HALL RENTALS:

ROSEBUD HALL RENTALS.

Call 403-335-9945 or 403-335-4606.

RUGBY HALL RENTALS

Call Delta @ 403-335-8767, for meetings, family events or reunions.

5-0 CLUB HALL RENTALS.

For Hall rentals and/or info regarding the hall please call Joyce Sloan 403-335-3443.

DIDSBUY ELKS HALL RENTALS.

Call Shelley Fakir 403-335-9213.

ST. CYPRIAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL RENTALS

contact Myrna Watt 403-335-3745.

LONE PINE HALL,

which is located east of Didsbury, contact Jo-Anne Hannah at 403-335-4190 for rental information.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY HALL

For meetings, community events, family or group reunions call Sharon 403-335-4288.

FALLEN TIMBER COMMUNITY HALL

offers an ideal place for quiet safety meetings or fabulous social activities.

Please contact Esther McMullen for information at 403-637-2270.

MELVIN HALL - www.melvinhall.ca

For rentals: Alana, 403-335-8352.

WESTERDALE HALL

- Contact Shirley 403-335-4145 or Barb 403-335-4498

WESTCOTT HALL RENTAL

- Call 403-335-8669 for meetings, family events and reunions.

CITIZENS ON PATROL - Didsbury. Driving in a neighbourhood near you. To volunteer call 403-335-8755.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Membership meetings are the 2nd Wednesday in June, September, November, and January. For more info please call 403-335-3265.

DIDSBUY TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Val at 403-335-3990 or Sheila 403-335-9964.

BEAVERS MON. - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

KING HIRAM LODGE #21 - has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Didsbury Review distribution area. While every effort will be made to ensure each request for publication is granted, the Didsbury Review does NOT GUARANTEE publication for a variety of reasons including space

ST. HILDA CHAPTER #2 O.E.S. - Has its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info. Call Marg Steckler at 403-335-281

DIDSBUY SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES - Co-ordinates assistance for seniors. Call 403-335-4391.

DIDSBUY SHUTTLE BUS - Scheduled transportation for anyone on Wednesdays & Fridays 9 - 3. Please call day prior or by 8:00 a.m. for pick up. 403-507-0208. Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by the Didsbury Lions Club.

LEARNING DISABILITIES MTN VIEW CHAPTER - Support and info for parents and teachers dealing with learning disabilities. For info call Susan at 403-335-3174.

DIDSBUY ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - Provides free accessible mental health services. 403-335-7285.

DIDSBUY & DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES AUXILIARY - monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Unit 4 at the hospital.

3025 RCACC DIDSBUY ARMY CADETS - Youth 12-18 Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30. Downstairs Victoria Square Mall 403-559-8801.

DIDSBUY MUSEUM - Tuesday - Friday 9 - 4:30 pm, Saturday 1 - 4:00 pm By appointment: Jim 403-335-0003 or Shirley 403-335-3277

DIDSBUY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BUS. - Call Norma to book your trip. 403-586-4090. Competent drivers.

DIDSBUY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE'S - meetings are held the first Monday of each month. All persons interested in volunteering and helping to work with the youth in our community are encouraged to come.

PARENT LINK CENTER - Fun, FREE Programs for parents and children ages newborn to 6 yrs. Programs available at Didsbury Neighbourhood Place, #106, 2034 19th Avenue Didsbury. For more information call 403-559-7894 or www.mountainviewparentlink.org

DIDSBUY ELKS LODGE - supper meetings every 2nd and 4th Thurs. Supper at 7:00 p.m. meeting at 8:00 p.m. Call 403-335-4655.

constraints. To try and accommodate as many requests as possible, please keep submissions to 20 words or less. Please have your submissions in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event you are publicizing.

SUPPER INVITATION - The Didsbury Lions Club welcomes men & lady visitors at their supper meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the 5-0 Club. For information and to RSVP call 403-335-9173 or 403-335-4796.

DIDSBUY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE - is a resource centre for the town, we provide information and referral services, community programming, FCSS, resource lending library and meeting space available for rent. Please call 403-335-8719.

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA - For fun, friendship and adventure for girls and women of all ages! Join anytime. Leaders are needed for all units, no experience necessary. Ages: Sparks 5/6; Brownies 7/8; Guides 9 - 11; Pathfinders 12 - 14; rangers 15 & up. Call Karen 403-556-6881 for more information.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ARTS SOCIETY - for lovers of art, culture and heritage of Didsbury & Mountain View County. Info at www.mountainviewartsociety.ca or call 403-335-9445.

DIDSBUY DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP meets every last Monday of the month. 3:00pm. at Aspen Ridge Lodge. Contact Sharon 403-335-7285.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE in OLDs is OPEN 10:00 - 5:00 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays CALL: 587-796-1611 or email olds@pregnancycare.ca NEW service, clothing boutique for maternity clothes and NB - 2 years of age FREE

DIDSBUY CRIBBAGE - Every Friday at 7:00pm. Elks Hall - main street Didsbury. Everyone Welcome!

KIDSPORE MOUNTAIN VIEW is looking for VOLUNTEERS. Call Tammy at 403-335-8982 or email: mountainview@kidsport.ab.ca

WINTER DREAMS - A Festive Celebration of Music - Seasonal, Celtic and Traditional starring Tracie Skeet-Brook, Marlene Skeet with special guests Tesia Runnett and Anne Burchill. Saturday December 19, 2015 at the St. John's Anglican Church in Olds 4821 - 50 St. Admission \$20

OUTDOOR LIVE NATIVITY - December 19th and 20th at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments to follow in the gym. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Didsbury - (403) 335-3161

Didsbury Marketplace

130. Coming Events

WINTER DREAMS
A FESTIVE CELEBRATION
of Music, starring
Tracie Skeet-Brook
(Vocals)
Special guests:
Tessa Runnett (Harp)
Anne Burchill(Flute)
Saturday, December 19, 2015
7:00pm. St. John's Anglican
Church Olds. 4821-50 St.
Admission \$20.00

180. Thank You

THE FAMILY & FRIENDS of
Theo Janzen wish to extend
their deep gratitude to the
nursing staff at Bethany
Care for the efficient & loving
care of Theo for the year he
was a resident there. Also
to Alternatives Funeral
Service and to the Berghal
Ladies for their kind service
at the Fellowship Luncheon

5110. Houses For Rent

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in Didsbury with garage
overlooking park, close to
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1 bedroom downstairs.
N/P. N/S. \$1200 plus
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180. Thank You

180. Thank You

Thank You

The family of

Delbert Klinck

would like to thank Dr. Smit,
the Nurses and Staff at Aspen Lodge,
The Didsbury Hospital Acute Care and
Long Term Care for the passionate care
they gave Delbert during his illness
the past three years.

Also a special thanks to Nancy Blair from
officiating the service held at Westcott Hall
and all the friends and family members
for their help and support.

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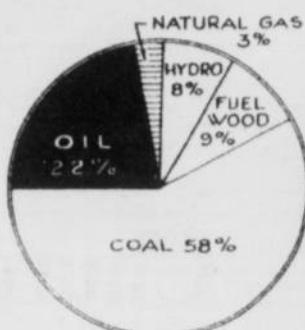
Didsbury, Alberta

Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm

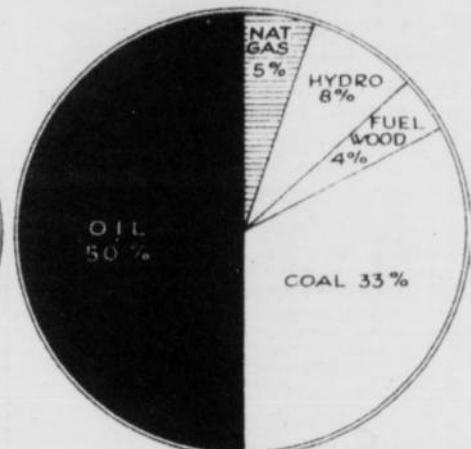


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Graphic Courtesy Frank Dabbs Collection

The discovery of large reserves of inexpensive conventional oil in Alberta after 1947, coupled with advances in automobile and airplane engines transformed the Canadian energy economy in 10 short years. The growth of fossil fuel use and the switch from coal to oil as an energy source could be matched by a transformation to renewable energy propelled by a combination of climate change policy and the development of new energy technologies, principally solar, wind and hydrogen under the auspices of Alberta's new NDP government.

Uniting the right just an idea, not a demand, Cooper says

BY DOUG COLLIE
MVP Staff

Olds Didsbury-Three Hills MLA Nathan Cooper says Wildrose Party leader Brian Jean isn't forcing any Progressive Conservatives (PCs) to join his party; just suggesting they think about it for the good of conservatism.

Last week, Jean suggested the Wildrose Party and Progressive Conservatives join forces to defeat the leftist New Democratic Party which won last May's provincial election, ending about 44 years of Progressive Conservative rule in the province.

"I guess ultimately, that's going to be up to the memberships of both organizations," Cooper, the Wildrose Party's house leader, said during an interview with the Albertan.

Cooper made a veiled refer-

ence to last December, when several Wildrose Party members – including then-leader Danielle Smith – crossed the floor to sit with the ruling conservatives.

"There haven't been backroom negotiations that we saw last year and all of a sudden it's like, 'surprise, here we go,'" Cooper said.

"Brian has just said, 'we need to talk about this.' At the event last week, he didn't say, 'I think we should merge,' I think we should have a new party," I think you should all join the Wildrose." He just said, "let's have a conversation about what's best for Alberta."

"He's ready to dance, but whether or not he has a dancing partner, we're not sure," Cooper added.

Political analysts say it may be tough for the Wildrose Party and Progressive

Conservatives to join forces because the Wildrose Party was formed by people who felt the PCs had strayed too far from traditional conservative values, including fiscal prudence.

The Wildrose Party has been viewed by some in the Progressive Conservative party to be too far to the right.

Cooper is not so sure the two parties can't join forces – that PCs or their supporters can't find a home with Wildrose Party members.

"It's tough to know. I mean, I know there are a lot of people who are centre/right who may have had a bit of a gutful with the PCs and are now very frustrated with the far left government that we have," he said.

"I think they, like many, were hoping they would govern centre/left, and they were wrong."

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brett@didsbrysprucefarms.com / robert@didsbrysprucefarms.com

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2322 - 17 Avenue



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\$354,900

3.58 Acres Just South of Didsbury



1 year old home shows like new, 1562 sq ft, hardwood, tile, gas fireplace, jetted tub, granite counter tops, large kitchen island, main floor laundry, 2 covered decks, walk out basement, on pavement

\$619,900

27 Didsbury Mobile Home Park



Affordable home on rented lot, nice laminate flooring, new furnace, 3 bedrooms & potential for a 4th, covered front porch, nice 2 tiered treated deck, 2 sheds

\$46,900

101, 1902 - 23 Street



Lovely unit in Westview Greens, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 9' ceilings, open plan, corner gas fireplace, floor heat, excellent location overlooking the golf course

\$189,900

1218 - 20 Street



Cute as can be upgraded home, 1000 sq ft, 2 bedrooms, 2 wall hung electric fireplaces, single garage, large lot

\$219,900

9 Sandpiper Drive



1363 sq ft home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood, ceramic tile, oak kitchen, large south facing deck, 9' basement ceilings, roughed in for floor heat

\$334,900

Unit A, 1322 - 20 Street



Contemporary styled condo, 2 fully finished levels with a total of over 1800 sq ft, 9' and 10' ceilings, large windows, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
\$199,900

THE PORCH BOYZ



*"Their signage was stuck in the yards with care
In hopes that SOLD signs soon would be there!"*

1620 - 20 Avenue



Great starter or revenue property, 2 + 1 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, original hardwood on main floor, single detached garage, great potential, zoned residential/commercial
\$164,900

38 Bluebird Drive



wonderful family home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, 3 baths, newer laminate floors, open plan, maple kitchen with island, fully finished walk-out basement, 2 decks, fenced yard

\$344,900

302 Westview Greens



Top floor condo apartment unit, 2 bedrooms, 9' ceilings, west side location with balcony with beautiful view of the golf course, 25+ age restriction

\$188,900

130 Valarosa Drive



Beautiful new home, soaring vaulted ceilings, dark maple kitchen, very open plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 9' basement ceilings, backs onto trees

\$349,900

5 Valarosa Point



Beautiful new home, 1441 sq ft bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood and tile, 9' ceilings, awesome ensuite bath, large rear deck, backs onto greenspace/creek with open view

\$369,900

2118 - 21 Avenue



Over 1800 sq ft of developed space, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, corner gas fireplace, maple hardwood and cabinetry, patio, deck, central location

\$279,900

11 Park Road, Carstairs



\$39,900

1502 Walter Place



Excellent family home, all new flooring, infloor heat in basement, open plan, oversized heated double attached garage, underground sprinkler system, large fenced yard with 2 decks

\$329,900